

East Hampton, C. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 1860.

Bro. Wm. Gray

Dear Sir:

I had taken up the *Andromeda* and the *Sponza* before your letter came to hand, so they I have sent them to some address through the medium of the Post-Office and as they are carefully and securely packed I trust they will be promptly and safely received. If they are set out, where they are to permanently remain in unshaded localities) and are mulched with straw & protected with evergreen boughs, they will probably live - but should they fail I will replace them another season. -

Nineteen years since Col. Welden sent me a plant of a semi-double Tree Peony (the *P. Annetia*, Trans. of the Hort. Soc. of Lond. vol. VI, p. 482?) - with the suggestion that from its seed I should attempt to produce new varieties. Annually I have raised many seedlings among which are some of great merit - The glove is thrown down to the whole Horticultural World to surpass me "Col. Welden" -

Under my management the seeds do not vernalize until the second season. The late Wm. Prince told me that he had no difficulty in causing them to vernalize the first season but did not impart the secret. - Can you furnish me with any hints in regard to it?

the honey. I've work upon the flowers of this species of *Plum*, with great avidity. It is an interesting fact that since I have stocked my grounds with hundreds of the single and semi-double plants and have augmented my Bee-stocks to about the number that the double flowers of the *Plum* often produce seed - effected no doubt by the pollen conveyed from the single flowers to them.

I spent some weeks, during Feb<sup>y</sup> & March last, on the banks of the St. Johns river in Florida. The Flora is tropical and at that time was rapidly developing. A copy of "Darby's Botany of the South" was among my baggage and enabled me to recognize most of the plants then in flower but thousands not in flower were undetermined. Among them <sup>was</sup> several species of parasitic plants growing on the yucca trees. No collections were made owing to the possession of ornithological results.

The vicinity of Lake Harney was a wonderful and interesting Botanic Garden.

On returning North I spent several days in Charleston S.C. in pleasant communication with my old friends, the Rev. Dr. Bachman and Prof. Holbrook. On Good Friday morning I strayed into the Cemetery of St. Philip's Church and there found the grave and tomb stone of the late Dr. James Mc Bride, the able assistant to Dr. Elliott, in preparing "the Botany of South Carolina and Georgia" (vid Preface to vol. II. of said work page VII & VIII. - In 1826)

subscribed for that work and for a time felt seriously the interruption of its publication, occasioned by the death of Dr. McBride. Between that work and Dr. Torrey's Compendium of 1826, I was enabled to work out most of our Ohio Botany at a period when Botanic works were scarce.

Dr. Bachman informs me that he officiated at the burial of Dr. McBride - also that Dr. B. had made an extensive collection of plants in the upper districts of South Carolina and Georgia, which, through accident, to reach Dr. Elliott, and was ultimately lost.

You ask what you can send in return for these plants, nothing is expected. Should you at any time have on hand any new and interesting plant, seed or cutting worth sending, even perfect Convolvulus, send me, it would be acceptable.

Above, you have an illustration, that old persons become laqueacious. - In their hands pen, ink and paper are dangerous implements.

Very respectfully yours,  
J. D. Eastland.

*Kittouch*